Physimerus melanchimus; n. sp.
Fig. 1

About 5 mm in length, oblong oval, shining black beneath the fine appressed pubsecence, prothorax narrow, constricted before the base, with a median callosity anteriorly, elytra with a basal callosity on each side of the scutellum, coarsely and striately punctate, the pubescence with paler areas in the form of traces of vittae and an interrupted fascia in the apical half.

Head entirely black with large eyes, interocular space scarcely half the width of the head, occiput coarsely punctate and with a fine median ridge and on either side a groove from the eye to the tubercles, tubercles swollen, carina between antennal sockets short and narrowly produced, lower front long with large mouthparts. Antennae with third joint longest, joints 3 to 5 deep brown, joints 6 to 8 black and thicker, joints 9 to 11 brown and thin. Prothorax as long as wide with a tiny seta bearing nodule at each corner, constricted before the base, a callosity in middle anteriorly and a depression on each side below this near base, surface entirely dark, covered with fine appressed pubescence. Scutellum dark and pubescent. Elytra considerably wider than prothorax, entirely dark except for the pale pubescence in the pattern of interrupted vittae and an interrupted fascia below the middle in apical half, shining beneath the pubescence, rather coarsely striate punctate, the interstices raised in slight costae, a callosity on each side of the scutellum with a depression below it; epipleura black and shiny and wide to the apical curve. Body beneath shining black, with a light pubescence except on the hind femora that are more pubescent, hind claws inflated. Length 4.4–5 mm; width 2–2.2 mm.

Type male, U.S.N.M. type no. 61623, Las Mercedes, Costa Rica, October 30, 1922, from the Nevermann collection. One other specimen, a female, collected by N. L. H. Krauss at El Valle, Panama, January 1947.

Remarks.—The antennae of this species, in having joints 6–8 thickened, resemble the antennae of *Homammatus nitidus* Clark, an entirely glabrous species that is much more robust.

MAMMALOGY.—*A new hedgehog from Africa.* HENRY W. SETZER, U. S. National Museum.

In cooperation with the United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 and the Chicago Natural History Museum, studies have been started on the mammals of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Egypt. As a result of these studies the hedgehog from the Sudan has been found to differ from the kinds known to inhabit adjacent areas. It is with great pleasure that I name this interesting mammal for J. S. Owen, District Commissioner, Torit, Equatoria Province, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, who did so much to make the field work of the Unit a success. All measurements are in millimeters, and the capitalized color terms are from Ridgway's *Color standards and color nomenclature.*

Erinaceus (Atelerix) pruneri oweni, n. subsp.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum, no. 67047, adult female, skin and skull, from Torit, 2,000 feet, Equatoria Province, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Obtained April 9, 1950, by Harry Hoogstraal, original no. 5478.

Specimens examined.—Seven, all from Torit.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality.

Diagnosis.—Spines of upper parts longitudinally striated and marked with the following pattern: Army Brown followed successively by a band of pure white (2 to 4 mm), a band of Army Brown shading into black (5 to 6 mm), a band of grayish white (2 to 4 mm), and a black base (2 to 4 mm); a few spines are entirely white. The ears and the muzzle to immediately behind the eyes Olive Brown; dorsal surfaces of hands and feet Snuff Brown with a generous admixture of white hairs; mystacial vibrissae black; forehead, shoulders, sides of body, upper parts of limbs, and belly with pure white hairs. Palms and soles naked; hind foot four toed. Skull robust; rostrum relatively narrow; width across zygomatic arches relatively small; nasals rather wide and long; lambdoidal crest moderately developed; upper molars relatively massive.

Measurements of type specimen.—Total length 215; length of tail 24; length of hind foot 32;

length of ear 29; condylobasal length of skull 43.9; length of palate 25.2; width of rostrum at level of infraorbital foramen 11.6; length of nasals 13.1; least width behind postorbital processes 11.4; width across zygomatic arches 26.7.

Comparisons.—*Erinaceus pruneri oweni* differs from *Erinaceus pruneri hindei*, as known from Ulukenia Hills and Kapiti Plains, British East Africa, as follows: Dorsal color somewhat darker but hands and feet lighter; rostrum decidedly narrower and longer; width across zygomatic arches less; nasals wider and longer; occipital region more nearly perpendicular; lambdoidal crest, in animals of comparable age, more developed; molars more robust; P^2 decidedly larger; postpalatal bridge less developed.

No specimens of *Erinaceus pruneri atratus* are available, but from the description, *E. p. oweni* is lighter in color and larger in all measurements taken. Also, it is apparent that *Erinaceus pruneri pruneri* is different in that the area immediately below the eye is white whereas in *E. p. oweni* this region is dark.

Remarks.—There is some variation in color of these specimens, but this is probably owing to the manner in which the skins have been prepared. If the spines are laid flat in preparation the general tone, as observed from above, is a smoky color; if the spines are semierect the color is darker. Another contributing factor is the amount of pigment on the tip of the spines. If this is slight the general effect is lighter and conversely if there is a relatively wide band at the tip the color appears darker. The only immature specimen in the series is decidedly darker in color than any of the adults. In all specimens except one, the maxillary bone touches the nasal on each side for at least 1.5 mm.

All the specimens were obtained in savanna type country between January 7 and April 9.

Obituary

Ida Albertina Bengtson.—A pioneer woman of science passed away on September 6, 1952. Born in Harvard, Nebr., on January 17, 1881, of parents who were Swedish immigrants, Ida A. Bengtson received a liberal education which led to an A.B. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1903. In those days few women were interested in the physical and biological sciences, and these subjects were not among Ida Bengtson's interests. She majored in languages and mathematics. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Shortly after graduation she came to Washington to be a cataloger in the library of the U. S. Geological Survey. She became acquainted with one of the few women who at that time held Federal Civil Service positions in science. She compared her own professional life with that of her friend and decided that for her the life of a scientist would be more interesting than that of a keeper of scientific books and records.

In Ida Bengtson ideas led to action. She resigned from the U. S. Geological Survey in 1911 and entered the University of Chicago to study bacteriology, with chemistry and physiology as minor subjects. She received the M.S. degree in 1913; held a university scholarship for two years; and received the degree of Ph.D. in 1919. After a year as bacteriologist in the Chicago Department of Health, she was appointed in 1916 to be an assistant bacteriologist in the Hygienic Laboratory (now designated the National Institutes of Health) of the United States Public Health Service, with an annual salary of $1,800. She was the first woman of science in U.S.P.H.S. Low as her entrance salary appears when compared with those of the present time, it was very good in those days. Dr. Bengtson told about the astonishment among her professors and fellow graduate students when she, a woman, received so attractive an appointment.

Within the next 20 years, eight or ten more women entered the Hygienic Laboratory as scientists. In obtaining their positions it was well for all of them that the pioneer woman, who by that time was a senior bacteriologist, was filling her position so ably.

In scientific investigation Dr. Bengtson was painstaking and thorough; her conclusions were conservative. In teamwork she was capable and amicable. She was a good teacher, and for a few weeks annually for many years she had opportunity to exercise that talent as one of the instructors of the orientation class of incoming medical officers. Other evidence of her ability